

REMARKS

Claims 8-14 and 21-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen (U.S. Patent Number 5,751,725) in view of Jacobs et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,414,796, hereinafter "Jacobs"). The Examiner's thoughtful and thorough reply in the *Response to Arguments* section of the present office action is appreciated; however, the applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's rejections and request reconsideration.

Regarding the rejection of claim 9, the Examiner cites Chen column 9, lines 56-61, column 11, lines 25-30, and column 6, lines 16-18. Chen column 9, lines 54-67 reads (emphasis added):

Conversely, if the Yamamoto value does not check in step 212, then in step 216 the processor selects a smaller or tighter maximum SER value for the eighth rate. If the Yamamoto value does not check, the processor expects the current frame to be an erasure, and therefore makes subsequent comparisons more stringent to ensure that the current frame is determined to have been transmitted at the eighth rate under only the most stringent of comparisons. Under step 206, the processor employs the looser maximum SER value from step 214, or the tighter maximum SER value from step 216, and compares it to the eighth rate SER to determine whether the frame is erased (step 210) or confirms that the current frame was transmitted at the eighth rate (step 208).

Chen column 11, lines 15-30 reads (emphasis added):

Furthermore, the routines of the present invention can compare the currently determined rate (rate i) to previous rates. As noted above, 90% of the time the rate of the current frame is either at the full or eighth rate in the exemplary embodiment. Similarly, under the exemplary embodiment, the probability is high that the rate of the current frame is equal to the rate of the previous frame. If a person is talking, they will likely continue talking (causing the current

frame to be at the full rate), while if they are silent, they will likely continue to be silent (maintaining the current frame at the eighth rate). As a result, the above-described routines can compare the determined rate of the current frame to the rate of the previous frame, and apply looser maximum and minimum SER thresholds. Alternatively, if the current determined rate differs from the previous rate, tighter thresholds can be applied.

Chen column 6, lines 12-19 reads (emphasis added):

The control processor, coupled to at least the decoder 30, operates in conjunction with the methods illustrated in the flow diagrams of FIGS. 2-5 to select the appropriate decoded frame to be output or provided to the user, or to declare the current frame an erasure condition. While the control processor and decoder 30 are shown as separate elements, the control processor and decoder can be incorporated together to form a single decoder.

In contrast, claim 9 recites (emphasis added):

9. A method comprising the steps of:
receiving a first frame;
determining a first frame rate for the first frame;
decoding the first frame according to the first frame rate to produce a speech decoder filter state;
receiving a second frame;
determining a second frame rate for the second frame;
determining, based on the second frame rate, if the first frame rate was in error to produce an error determination;
updating the speech decoder filter state based on the error determination to produce an updated speech decoder filter state;
decoding the second frame using the updated speech decoder filter state.

In the passages cited by the Examiner, Chen appears to be focused on determining the status of the current frame. Chen teaches comparing the rate determined for the current frame to previously determined rates and adjusting maximum and minimum SER thresholds or applying tighter thresholds based on the comparison. However, the applicants submit that Chen, as cited by the Examiner, does not teach or suggest "determining, based on the second frame rate, if the first frame rate was in error to

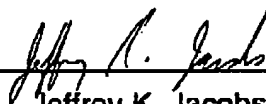
produce an error determination," (emphasis added) as claimed. In other words, Chen does not appear to teach using a second frame rate to determine whether a previous frame rate was in error.

Since none of the references cited, either independently or in combination, teach all of the limitations of base claim 9, or therefore, all the limitations of its respective dependent claims, the applicants assert that neither anticipation nor a prima facie case for obviousness has been shown. No remaining grounds for rejection or objection being given, the applicant now respectfully submits that the claims in their present form are patentable over the prior art of record, and are in condition for allowance. As a result, allowance and issuance of this case is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, if such communication would advance the prosecution of the present application. Lastly, please charge any additional fees (including extension of time fees) or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 502117 -- Motorola, Inc.

Respectfully submitted,
L. Proctor et al.

By: _____


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